

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus comprising a device that includes:  
a first coupling section which can detachably couple  
said device to a bus that includes a power line;  
5 a second coupling section which can detachably  
couple said device to a source of power; and  
circuitry coupled to each of said first and second  
coupling sections, said circuitry operating in a first  
mode in which said circuitry draws operating power from  
10 the power line through said first coupling section when  
no power is being received through said second coupling  
section, operating in a second mode in which said  
circuitry draws power through said second coupling  
section when a power source is supplying power to said  
15 second coupling section, automatically determining which  
of said first and second modes said circuitry is  
operating in, and automatically reporting through said  
first coupling section which of said first and second  
modes said circuitry is currently operating in.

2. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said  
circuitry automatically switches from said first mode to  
said second mode when a power supply begins supplying  
power through said second coupling section during  
25 operation of said circuitry in said first mode, and  
automatically reports through said first coupling section  
that said circuitry is now operating in said second mode.

3. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said circuitry includes a processor which monitors whether power from a power supply is present at said second coupling section, and which causes a reset of said bus upon detecting that a power supply has just started supplying power through said second coupling section.

4. The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said bus conforms to the IEEE 1394 protocol.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said circuitry automatically switches from said second mode to said first mode when a power supply stops supplying power through said second coupling section during operation of said circuitry in said second mode, and automatically reports through said first coupling section that said circuitry is now operating in said first mode.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said circuitry includes a processor which monitors whether power from a power supply is present at said second coupling section, and which causes a reset of said bus upon detecting that a power supply has just stopped supplying power through said second coupling section.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said bus conforms to the IEEE 1394 protocol.

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8. A method of operating a device having a first coupling section which can detachably couple said device to a bus that includes a power line, having a second coupling section which can detachably couple said device to a source of power, and circuitry coupled to each of said first and second coupling sections, comprising the steps of:

operating said circuitry in a selected one of a plurality of modes, including a first mode in which said circuitry draws operating power from the power line through said first coupling section when no power is being received through said second coupling section, and a second mode in which said circuitry draws power through said second coupling section when a power source is supplying power to said second coupling section;

automatically determining which of said first and second modes said circuitry is currently operating in; and

automatically reporting through said first coupling section which of said first and second modes said circuitry is currently operating in.

9. The method according to Claim 8, including the steps of:

automatically switching from said first mode to said second mode when a power supply begins supplying power through said second coupling section during operation in said first mode; and

automatically reporting through said first coupling section that operation is now occurring in said second mode.

10. The method according to Claim 9, including the steps of monitoring whether power from a power supply is present at said second coupling section, and forcing a reset of said bus upon detecting that a power supply has just started supplying power through said second coupling section.

11. The method according to Claim 10, including the step of configuring said bus to conform to the IEEE 1394 protocol.

12. The method according to Claim 8, including the steps of:

automatically switching from said second mode to said first mode when a power supply stops supplying power through said second coupling section during operation of said circuitry in said second mode; and

automatically reporting through said first coupling section that that operation is now occurring in said first mode.

13. The method according to Claim 12, including the steps of monitoring whether power from a power supply is present at said second coupling section, and forcing a reset of said bus upon detecting that a power supply has just stopped supplying power to said second coupling section.

14. The method according to Claim 13, including the step of configuring said bus to conform to the IEEE 1394 protocol.